

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action of April 13, 2007, in which claims 1-41 are pending, claims 1-6, 8-19, 21-33 and 35-41 were rejected, and claims 7, 20 and 34 were objected to. With this response, claims 1, 16 and 28 were amended and claims 7, 20, 34 and 40-41 were cancelled. Favorable consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 16 and 32 were amended to incorporate the elements of dependent claims 7, 20 and 34, respectively. No new matter has been added. Claims 7, 20 and 34 have therefore been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 40-41 have likewise been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7, 20 and 34 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims, but were otherwise indicated allowable. The subject matter of each of claims 7, 20 and 34 was incorporated by this amendment into independent base claims 1, 16 and 32.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-6, 9, 15-19, 22 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yonkman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,865,282). Claims 8 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yonkman et al. in view of Marshall (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,827); claims 10-14 and 23-26 were rejected as being unpatentable over Yonkman et al. in view of Lindsay (U.S. Patent No. 4,993,551); claims 28-33 and 36-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindsay in view of Yonkman et al.; and claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindsay in view of Yonkman et al. as applied to claim 28 and further in view of Marshall. These rejections are moot in view of the amendments, which incorporate the elements from non-rejected claims 7, 20 and 34 into independent claims 1, 16 and 34, respectively, and which have also cancelled rejected claims 40-41.

Because each currently pending independent claim, claims 1, 16 and 32, now

contains subject matter that was indicated allowable, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are in condition for allowance. Because the currently pending dependent claims, claims 2-6, 9-15, 17-19, 21-31, 33 and 35-39, now each depend from a base claim whose subject matter was indicated as allowable and contain additional elements, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are in condition for allowance as well.

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims, namely claims 1-6, 8-19, 21-33 and 35-39 are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

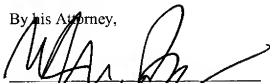
Respectfully submitted,

DAVID P. FIEREK

By his Attorney,

Date:

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Glenn M. Seager, Reg. No. 36,926
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403-2420
Tel: (612) 677-9050